

Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service 2009 3RD Quarterly Report

Volunteer Promotion

The Governor's Volunteer Award Program

The Governor's Volunteer Award program was established in 1982 to honor and recognize volunteers for the commitment, service and time that they contribute to Iowa's government agencies and nonprofit organizations. More than 680 volunteers were selected for awards in 2009. Volunteers may be nominated for an award in one of three categories: Individual, Group, or Length of Service. And, for 2009, a special category was added to recognize disaster assistance and recovery volunteers. Award presentation ceremonies were held in June in Marion and Storm Lake, Des Moines in July, and Ottumwa in August. Names of recipients and additional details are available at www.volunteeriowa.org/awards

Volunteer Solutions

During the disasters of 2008, the ICVS launched a statewide volunteer management system called "Volunteer Solutions", which can be accessed through the Web portal at www.volunteeriowa.org. Over the past few months, an AmeriCorps*VISTA member has been conducting training sessions to help organizations understand the importance of listing their volunteer opportunities online, and how to best take advantage of the components of the Volunteer Solutions system — not only in times of disaster, but for ongoing volunteer opportunities as well. Training has been conducted for the United Ways of Iowa, the RSVP Directors of Iowa Association, and many other individual agencies and local volunteer coordination centers. The VISTA member has also designed promotional brochures targeted at both agencies and potential volunteers and two training manuals, and is providing ongoing technical assistance to users of the system.

Summer of Service

The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service assisted the Governor's Office in promoting the Culver/Judge "Summer of Service" Initiative, which complimented President Obama's "United We Serve" campaign. All Iowans — whether seeking to volunteer, or in need of volunteers for community service projects, were encouraged to participate in local service activities.

September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance

The commission partnered with the Iowa Office of the Corporation for National and Community Service and the Iowa Department of Human Rights to publicize and encourage participation in this first annual National Day of Service designated in the

Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act. Several projects were posted on the Volunteer Iowa Web portal, ranging from food pantry donation drives, to Habitat for Humanity projects, to veterans recognition events to emergency awareness and preparedness training sessions.



The Iowa Mentoring Partnership (IMP) has added three new programs to the Partnership, bringing the total number of certified mentoring programs to 78. Unfortunately, the IMP received notification from five certified mentoring programs that will no longer be in operation due to various budget cuts and financial hardships.

The Quarter 1 IMP Report was recently collected from certified mentoring programs and with 61 organizations reporting, there are currently 3,989 active mentoring matches across the state and 2,102 youth on waiting lists.

Beginning in 2002, January has been designated as National Mentoring Month. The campaign is designed to raise awareness regarding the positive benefits of mentoring and to recruit new mentors. For National Mentoring Month 2010, the IMP will again be serving as a Lead Local Partner and will support local mentoring programs by distributing promotional materials, issuing a Proclamation, press release and mentor recognition certificates from the Governor's Office and organizing Mentoring Day on the Hill and the Excellence in Mentoring Awards at the State Capitol.

Mentoring Day on the Hill will encourage all certified mentoring programs to serve as mentoring advocates at the state level. The event will take place on January 28th and will provide local programs with the opportunity to spend an afternoon educating their legislators on the importance of mentoring and sharing stories about the positive impacts mentoring has had upon their communities. In 2009, mentoring program representatives were also recognized on the floor of the Iowa legislative chamber and the IMP is working to secure this recognition again for 2010.

For the first time, the IMP, in collaboration with the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service and the Governor's Office, will recognize five outstanding mentors with the Excellence in Mentoring Award. Nomination packets are due from certified mentoring programs in early December and the recognition ceremony will take place at the State Capitol following the completion of Mentoring Day on the Hill.



RSVP

The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service is coordinating the distribution of \$179,961* in state funds appropriated by the legislature to Iowa's RSVP programs. These programs work across the state to engage individuals that are 55 and over in meeting Iowa's critical needs. A new program sponsor was selected in Mason City to replace the program that ended in Forest City when Waldorf College was sold to a for-profit university. The amounts awarded* and counties served are listed below:

City	County	Amount
Boone	Boone	\$10,779
Carroll	Carroll	\$ 5,015
Cedar Rapids	Linn	\$ 5,015
Clinton	Clinton	\$ 5,015
Council Bluffs	Mills, Pottawattamie	\$ 15,888
Davenport	Scott	\$ 5,015
Decorah	Winneshiek	\$ 13,169
Des Moines	Dallas, Polk, Warren	\$ 5,015
Dubuque	Dubuque	\$ 5,015
Fort Dodge	Webster	\$ 15,888

City	County	Amount
Fort Madison	North Lee County	\$ 5,015
Iowa City	Johnson, Iowa, Muscatine	\$ 29,888
Forest City	Cerro Gordo, Worth, Hancock, Winnebago	\$ 5,015
Mount Pleasant	Henry	\$ 10,779
Newton	Jasper	\$ 5,015
Ottumwa	Monroe, Wapello	\$ 5,015
Sioux City	Woodbury	\$ 5,015
Spencer	Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, Kossuth, Palo Alto	\$ 5,015
Story City	Story, Marshall	\$ 13,360
Waterloo	Black Hawk, Fayette	\$ 5,015
Webster City	Hamilton, Wright	\$ 5,015

*This figure represents a reduction from the FY 2009 appropriation of \$197,198.



AmeriCorps

This Summer, ICVS announced 2009-2010 AmeriCorps State Grant awards as well as additional American Recovery and Reinvestment act awards of more than \$8 million in grants and AmeriCorps Education Awards to support the placement of 824 AmeriCorps members within community-based organizations across Iowa. Additionally there will be 160 AmeriCorps NCCC members serving in Vinton and dozens of AmeriCorps National and VISTA members serving across Iowa in community based organizations. In total, we expect to have more than 1,100 members serving in 2009-2010 across Iowa. The following chart details the grants made for programs that began operation on September 1, 2009.

AmeriCorps State Competitive

Organization Name	Program Name	Funding	Members	Education Awards
Graceland University	AmeriCorps Youth Launch	\$145,612	24	\$59,201
City of Dubuque	Partners in Learning AmeriCorps Program	\$198,909	49	\$86,019
Habitat for Humanity of Iowa, Inc.	Habitat for Humanity of Iowa AmeriCorps	\$181,551	19	\$77,009
Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence	Rural Education and Community Help: REACH AmeriCorps	\$141,961	19	\$87,450
Iowa Legal Aid	Iowa Legal Aid AmeriCorps Project	\$125,800	11	\$53,000

Iowa State University	Iowa AmeriCorps State of Promise Grant	\$343,389	38	\$153,700
Linn County Conservation	Eastern Iowa Conservation Alliance AmeriCorps Program	\$184,794	17	\$79,500
Iowa Campus Compact	Iowa Campus Compact AmeriCorps Program	\$12,000	96	\$106,000
Total		\$1,334,016	273	\$701,879

AmeriCorps State Formula

Organization Name	Program Name	Funding	Members	Education Awards
Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Mississippi Valley	BBBS AmeriCorps Consortium for Eastern Iowa	\$126,000	20	\$53,000
Community Corrections Improvement Association	Each One Reach One AmeriCorps Project	\$172,778	30	\$73,723
Iowa Department of Natural Resources	Keepers of the Land AmeriCorps	\$428,330	52	\$181,419
Iowa Workforce Development	Iowa AmeriCorps YouthBuild Planning Grant	\$50,000	0	\$68,900
Prevent Child Abuse Iowa	AmeriCorps Partnering to Protect Children	\$162,779	15	
University of Northern Iowa	Iowa Green Corps	\$273,000	56	\$108,756
Total		\$1,086,887	173	\$485,798

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Awards:

Name	Service Area	Members	Education Award	Recovery Allocation	Total Allocation
American Red Cross	Statewide	2	\$9,450	\$29,400	\$38,850
Campus Compact of Iowa	Statewide	12	\$56,700	\$176,400	\$233,100
Central Iowa Shelter and Services	Des Moines	9	\$42,525	\$132,300	\$174,825
Central Iowa Works	Des Moines	9	\$42,525	\$132,300	\$174,825
Iowa Department of Human Rights	Des Moines	1	\$4,725	\$14,700	\$19,425
Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence	Des Moines	1	\$4,725	\$14,700	\$19,425
Iowa Civil Rights Commission	Statewide	14	\$66,150	\$205,800	\$271,950
Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service/United Way	Des Moines/Iowa City	2	\$9,450	\$29,400	\$38,850
Lutheran Services of Iowa	Des Moines	1	\$4,725	\$14,700	\$19,425
Mason City Youth Task Force	Mason City	1	\$4,725	\$14,700	\$19,425
Micah House	Council Bluffs	1	\$4,725	\$14,700	\$19,425
Passageway	Des Moines	1	\$4,725	\$14,700	\$19,425
Visiting Nurse Services	Des Moines	2	\$9,450	\$29,400	\$38,850

City of Dubuque	Dubuque	30	\$69,524	\$186,201	\$255,725
Habitat for Humanity of Iowa, Inc.	Statewide	40	\$120,760	\$328,644	\$449,404
Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources	Statewide	160	\$203,415	\$646,377	\$849,792
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Mississippi Valley	Quad Cities	0	\$0	\$0	\$67,449
Community Corrections Improvement Association	Linn/Johnson County	87	\$372,424	\$1,164,316	\$1,619,675
Prevent Child Abuse Iowa	Statewide	5	\$23,625	\$65,309	\$88,934
Totals		378	\$1,054,348	\$3,214,047	\$4,418,779

Training

September 21st a training was held for our new electronic record-keeping system. During this training session, we made use of our new WebEx program to hold the training both in-person and as a webinar presentation. This allowed many site supervisors from throughout the state to participate, and also meant we could record the session and make it available as a reference tool for future use.

Additionally, program directors met July 21-22, 2009 to prepare for the upcoming AmeriCorps program year. New and returning directors were given information on both programmatic and fiscal changes for program year 2009-2010. Disability inclusion was one of the highlighted topics for this year. Finally, program directors received training on reflection activities, including how to effectively incorporate reflection into their programs.

Iowa Green Corps & Summer Youth Corps

With the Passing of Senate File 482 the Iowa Summer Youth Corps and Green Corps officially became permanent fixtures of ICVS's programming. ICVS underwent rulemaking to incorporate procedures for this new programming and for the first time incorporated it in our fall AmeriCorps RFP. Below is the status update for the Green Corps that was started during the recovery effort and will be continued because of this legislation.

GREENIOWA AMERICORPS PROGRESS REPORT:

Performance Measures (target)	4/1/2009	7/1/2009	10/1/2009	1/1/2010	Final
Energy conservation and efficiency education programs conducted (50)	27	26	204		
Implemented or advised property owners (homes and businesses) on weatherization improvements (350)	362	308	726		
Recruit volunteer hours (1000)	0	0	2,185		
Implemented team projects and education programs (21)	64	68	195		
Match resources (\$150,000)	0	0	\$90,000		

Progress:

The Cedar Falls members are working in cooperation with Cedar Falls Utilities and the Cedar Rapids members are working in cooperation with the Maquoketa Valley Electric to offer advice or implementation of energy efficiency or weatherization improvements. These collaborations have been instrumental in enabling members to provide more service.

Work with local governments and the community:

Both the Cedar Rapids and Cedar Falls members are working with local electrical companies to provide energy efficiency audits and educational programs. Both groups have been active in neighborhood organizations, Girl Scouts, low income housing projects and canvassing flood areas to offer services and education homeowners. Members have participated at health fairs, education events at CEEE, community picnics, Habitat homes, and flooded low-income housing projects.



Reach Out Iowa

2009 marks the first year the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service received a Community Based Learn and Serve Grant. The three year program will target six communities: Des Moines, Winterset, Marshalltown, Waterloo, Cedar Rapids and Humboldt. Youth groups in these communities will receive training and support to carry out a variety of service-learning activities. The program will have a special emphasis on projects that support those families hardest hit by the economic downturn. ISU Extension will also train local community organizations in how to more effectively involve youth guiding their programming direction.